

Washington D.C.

December 2nd 1898

Mrs. Ida M. Tarbell

The Edward 816 Fifteenth St.

Washington D.C.

Madam

In reply to your letter of Nov. 30th requesting information as to J. Sumnerfield Staples a private in the 2nd District of Columbia Volunteers, who you understand was a substitute for Mr. Lincoln, I beg to say that I do not remember Mr. Staples, but on an examination of "The final report of the Provost Marshal General U.S.A." it will be found that John S. Staples of the District of Columbia, was the representative substitute of Abraham Lincoln.

Respectfully
Wm. W. W. W. W. W.